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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,769	02/27/2004	Mayumi Takeda	KOT-0090	8475
23413	7590	11/27/2007	EXAMINER	
CANTOR COLBURN, LLP 55 GRIFFIN ROAD SOUTH BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002			MAHMOOD, REZWANUL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2164	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/788,769

Applicant(s)

TAKEDA, MAYUMI

Examiner

Rezwanul Mahmood

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-7,10,11 and 13-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-7,10,11 and 13-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the communication filed on September 18, 2007.

Response to Amendment

2. Claims 1, 5-7, 10, 11 and 13-19 are pending in this office action,

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5-7, 10, 11 and 13-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 5-7, 10, 11 and 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujino (US Patent 7,178,110) in view of Martinez (US Patent 6,271,846).

6. With respect to claim 1, Fujino discloses a directory searching method of searching a plurality of directory structures in a storage medium for a prescribed directory structure, wherein the plurality of directory structures constitutes a hierarchical

structure and the prescribed directory structure includes at least two directories (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Here the hierarchical directory structure includes at least two directories).

However, Fujino does not explicitly disclose a directory having a first name and a directory having a second name.

The Martinez reference, however, discloses a hierarchical directory structure with at least two directories of a directory having a first name and a directory having a second name (Martinez: Figure 5A; Here a hierarchical directory structure has at least two directories and the directories have different names).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify the teachings of Fujino with the teachings of Martinez to have at least two directories of a directory having a first name and a directory having a second name to provide manipulations of directory tree structures in a computer system (Martinez: Column 4, lines 58-59).

Fujino in view of Martinez discloses:

the directory searching method comprising:

inputting the first name and the second name with an inputting device (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B; Here the user inputs the first name and the second name with an inputting device such as a mouse);

searching the plurality of directory structures based on the first name and the second name so as to extract all the prescribed directory structure comprising the

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directory having the first name and the directory having the second name in the storage medium (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B); and

displaying at least part of the prescribed directory structure extracted in the searching step (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B);

wherein the directory having the second name is in the same hierarchy level as the hierarchy level on the directory having the first name (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B; Here the directory having the second name can be in the same hierarchy level as the directory having the first name).

7. With respect to claim 5, Fujino in view of Martinez discloses the directory searching method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting a part of the prescribed directory structure extracted in the searching step (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B).

8. With respect to claim 6, Fujino in view of Martinez discloses the directory searching method of claim 1, wherein the at least two directories store a set data containing at least one of image data, sound data and sound image data (Fujino: Column 8, lines 50-63; Figure 20).

9. With respect to claim 7, Fujino in view of Martinez discloses a directory searching apparatus for searching a plurality of directory structures in a storage medium for a prescribed directory, wherein the plurality of directory structures constitutes a hierarchical structure and the prescribed directory structure includes at least two directories of a directory having a first name and a directory having a second name (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B), the directory searching apparatus comprising:

an inputting device to input the first name and the second name (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B; Here the user inputs the first name and the second name with an inputting device such as a mouse);

a searching device for searching the plurality of directory structures based on the first name and the second name so as to extract all the prescribed directory structure comprising the directory having the first name and the directory having the second name in the storage medium (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B);

displaying device to display at least a part of the prescribed directory structure extracted by the searching device (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B);

wherein the directory having the second name is in the same hierarchy level as

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the hierarchy level of the directory having the first name (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B; Here the directory having the second name can be in the same hierarchy level as the directory having the first name).

10. With respect to claim 10, Fujino in view of Martinez discloses the directory searching apparatus of claim 7, further comprising: a range specification device to specify a search range (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Martinez: Figure 5B; Here the user can specify a search range with a mouse).

11. With respect to claim 11, Fujino in view of Martinez discloses the directory searching apparatus of claim 10, wherein the search range is the top and bottom level in the directory structure (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Martinez: Figure 5B; Here the range is the top and bottom level in a directory structure).

12. With respect to claim 13, Fujino in view of Martinez discloses the directory searching apparatus of claim 7, further comprising of:

a selecting device to select a part of the prescribed directory structure extracted by the searching device (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 9; Figure 10).

13. With respect to claim 14, Fujino in view of Martinez discloses the directory searching apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least two directories store a set data

containing at least one of image data, sound data and sound image data (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Column 8, lines 50-63; Figure 20).

14. With respect to claim 15, Fujino in view of Martinez discloses a directory searching program comprising step of controlling a computer to function as a directory searching method o claim 1 (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 9).

15. With respect to claim 16, Fujino in view of Martinez discloses a directory searching program comprising a controlling section to control a computer to function as a directory searching apparatus of claim 7 (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 9).

16. With respect to claim 17, Fujino in view of Martinez discloses a storage medium comprising data corresponding to the directory searching program of claim 15 (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 9).

17. With respect to claim 18, Fujino in view of Martinez discloses a storage medium comprising data corresponding to the directory searching program of claim 16 (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 9).

18. With respect to claim 19, Fujino in view of Martinez discloses a directory searching method of searching a plurality of directory structures in a storage medium for a prescribed directory structure, wherein the plurality of directory structures constitutes

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a hierarchical structure and the prescribed directory structure includes at least two directories of a directory having a first name and a directory having a second name (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B), the directory searching method comprising:

inputting the first name and the second name with a inputting device (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B; Here the user inputs the first name and the second name with an inputting device such as a mouse);

searching the plurality of directory structures based on the first name and the second name so as to extract all the prescribed directory structure comprising the directory having the first name and the directory having the second name in the storage medium (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B); and

displaying at least part of the prescribed directory structure extracted in the searching step (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B);

wherein the directory having the second name is in the hierarchy level below the hierarchy level of the directory having the first name (Fujino: Column 7, lines 1-45; Figure 11; Figure 12; Martinez: Column 3, lines 57-65; Column 7, lines 1-9; Figure 4A; Figure 5B; Here the directory having the second name can be in the hierarchy level below the hierarchy level of the directory having the first name).

Conclusion

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Shi reference (US Patent 6,625,615) teaches about data processing system and method for multi-level directory searches. The Sedlar reference (US Patent 6,427,123) teaches about hierarchical indexing for accessing hierarchically organized information in a relational system. The Brechner reference (US Publication 2004/0215643) teaches about organizing and searching media contents. The Sakai reference (US Publication 2004/0056903) teaches about a directory management program.

Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rezwanul Mahmood whose telephone number is (571)272-5625. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 10 A.M. - 5 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571)272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Rezwanul Mahmood
Examiner
Art Unit 2164

November 24, 2007


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